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New AirBus A320-214 XY-ALR for MAI arrives at Yangon International Airport



AIRBUS A320-214 XY-ALR taken by Myanmar Airways International (MAI) arrived at the Yangon International Airport via the Philippines yesterday.

The airbus can give eight seats for business class and 162 for economy class to 170 passengers in total. MAI gave an offer to take the new airbus before the outbreak of Covid-19.—Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM

New AirBus A320-214 XY-ALR arrives yesterday for the MAI fleet. **PHOTO: KO NYI LAY**

Pearl and gems emporium continues seventh day in Nay Pyi Taw

THE seventh day of sales of pearl and gems in Myanmar Kyats continued yesterday morning at Mani Yadanar Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw following the COVID-19 health guidelines.

It was announced that of 450 lots of jade from 451 to 900 lots, 407 jade lots were sold for K3,510,199,708 on the sixth day of the emporium.

On the seventh day of the emporium, the gem merchants placed their proposed prices in the tender boxes starting at 8 am after viewing the jade lots displayed in the Jade Hall.

The responsible persons will check the bidding prices for jade lots from number 901 to 1350, and the jade lots that are sold will be announced at 8 am today.

Similarly, the bidding price proposals for jade lots from (1351) to (1800) will be closed at 11 am. Today's sold jade lots will be announced on the morning of 9 April, while the jade lots numbers from (1801) to (2148) sold on 9 April will be announced on the next day. The auction will continue till 10 April.—MNA

Gemstone merchants are viewing jade lots outside the Mani Yadanar Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**



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LOCAL BUSINESS

Farmers from Mongyang happy with golden pumpkin yield, prices this year

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Republic of the Union of Myanmar
State Administration Council
Nine Objectives

1. Political affairs

- (a) Building of a Union based on democracy and federalism in practising genuine disciplined multiparty democracy in a full fairness manner
- (B) Emphasizing of restoration of eternal peace for the entire nation in line with the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA)
- (c) Continuous practising of the “principle” of peaceful co-existence among countries by holding up the independent, active and non-aligned foreign policy

2. Economic affairs

- (a) Further development of production based on agriculture and livestock breeding through modern techniques and all-round development of other

sectors of the economy as well

- (b) Stability of market economy and inviting international investments to develop the economy of entire ethnic people
- (c) Encouragement of local businesses to create employment opportunities to be able to produce many products of the State

3. Social affairs

- (a) For ensuring of dynamism of Union spirit which is genuine patriotic spirit
- (b) Following customs and traditions of all ethnic nationalities and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national characters
- (c) Enhancement of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation

Five future programmes of State Administration Council

- 1. The Union Election Commission will be reconstituted to carry out tasks that should be done, including inspection of voting lists in accordance with the law.
- 2. Effective measures will be taken for the prevention of current infectious COVID-19 with added momentum.
- 3. Efforts will be made to recover businesses that faced loss caused by COVID-19 in various ways as quickly as possible.
- 4. Emphasis will be placed on restoring eternal peace in the entire nation in line with agreements from the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) as much as possible.
- 5. When missions will be accomplished in accord with provisions of the state of emergency, a free and fair multiparty democracy election will be held in accordance with the Constitution (2008), and further tasks will be undertaken to hand over State duty to the winning party meeting the standards of democracy.

ASEAN DGSOM-ATRC leaders’ retreat held online



The first ASEAN Digital Senior Officials’ Meeting and ASEAN Telecommunications Regulators’ Council Leaders’ Retreat in progress online.

THE first ADGSOM-ATRC Leaders’ Retreat (1st ASEAN Digital Senior Officials’ Meeting and ASEAN Telecommunications Regulators’ Council Leaders’ Retreat) was hosted by Thailand via a virtual system yesterday.

Permanent Secretary for Transport and Communications U Soe Thein, Director-General of the Directorate of Communications U Myo Swe and representatives participated in the discussion. Malaysia chaired

the meeting. Senior digital officials, heads of regulators from the ASEAN countries, director of the ASEAN Secretariat, and ASEAN ICT centre attended the meeting.

The meeting focused on ASEAN ICT funding and the preparation of the “Leaders’ Statement on Advancing the Digital Transformation of ASEAN” that need to be submitted to the ASEAN Digital Ministers for approval at the 38th ASEAN Summit in Novem-

ber 2021.

The meeting also discussed projects being implemented under the ASEAN ICT Work plan 2021, approval of the member countries’ proposed projects for the ASEAN ICT Work Plan 2022 depending on the priority needs and funding situation.

They also discussed projects to be implemented with outside organizations’ assistance and other issues related to the telecommunications and the ICT sector. — MNA

File opened against former chief minister of Mon State Dr Aye Zan under Anti-Corruption Law

THE Anti-Corruption Commission formed an investigation team according to the complaint to take action against the former chief minister of Mon State, Dr Aye Zan, under the law for his acts of taking monetary from businesspersons based on his post of chief minister and authority.

Based on inspection findings conducted by the investigation team, former chief minister of Mon State, Dr Aye Zan, accepted more than K569,809,000 from businesspersons who extracted sand from Thanlwin River as of 2018 while serving as chief minister of Mon State.

He allowed those businesspersons to pay a less-

er amount of mineral tax to the State fund. As such, the State fund lost more than K132,357,000 in the 2019-2020 financial year.

He issued K20 million from the Covid-19 fund to another person, but he did not pay back the money. Dr Aye Zan then gave K65 million to the other two persons who did not pay back the money.

As such, the investigation showed financial loss of the State.

The Anti-Corruption Commission stated that a file of the lawsuit against Dr Aye Zan to be taken action under Section 55 of the Anti-Corruption Law was opened at Mawlamyine Myoma police station in Mon State. — MNA

Voting fraud was terrible

IN holding the 2020 election, as it was the time of breaking out of Covid-19, votes were cast under the social distancing. Votes were cast by 71 per cent. Large numbers of difference were found in the inspection of the voting result, and such findings were released. Requests were made for addressing the differences in voting results many times. There were more than 50,000 vote-riggings in Myeik Township and over 30,000 in Kyunsu Township, in addition to more than 10 million across the nation. Voting fraud was terrible. Such an event was similar to the act of illegally sitting the examination to take the highest marks. As attempts were made to form the new government by holding the third Hluttaw in addition to absence of addressing the errors on voting list, the Tatmadaw assumed the State responsibilities in accord with Sections 417 and 418 of the Constitution starting from 1 February 2021 and formed the State Administration Council under Section 419. The council was constituted with military and civilian persons in balance, and civilians were appointed as chairmen of region and state administration councils. In fact, the Tatmadaw is taking responsibilities in a short period to ensure genuine democracy and disciplined and firm democracy.

(Excerpt from the speech to officers, other ranks and their families in Myeik, Kyunsu and Cocogyun stations made by the Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing on 21 March 2021)

Stakes driven for construction of MRTV’s Diamond Jubilee Museum

A ceremony to drive stakes for construction of the building for Diamond Jubilee Museum of Myanma Radio and Television took place at MRTV in Nay Pyi Taw, Tatkon, yesterday morning. Chairman of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing has already given guidance to separately build the Diamond Jubilee building of MRTV on the right-wing of the main building of MRTV and open it on a grand scale. Union Minister for Information U Chit Naing, Deputy Minister U Ye Tint and officials drove stakes for the building.



Union Minister U Chit Naing and party are seen after driving stakes for the MRTV’s Diamond Jubilee Museum building yesterday.

The Union Minister met the staff of MRTV at Auditorium and urged them to emphasize their works. The two-storeyed RCC building will be 100 feet long, 75 feet wide and 26 feet high. The museum will display musical instruments used in successive eras of MRTV, equipment, scale models, and public observation studios. — MNA

Press briefing 4/2021 of Information Team to be broadcast live

THE press briefing 4/2021 of the Information Team of the State Administration Council will be broadcast live on MRTV and MITV and aired live on Myanma Radio starting from 1:00 pm on 9 April, at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Information. — MNA

State Administration Council Information Team to hold press briefing 4/2021

THE Information Team of the State Administration Council will hold a press briefing on 4/2021 at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Information office in Nay Pyi Taw at 1:00 pm on 9 April. Local and foreign media personnel are invited to the press conference. — MNA

Final day of 28th Myanmar military medical conference held

THE third day of the 28th Myanmar Military Medical Conference was held at the No (2) Military Orthopaedic Hospital (500-bed) in Mingaladon and No (2) Military Hospital (1,000 bedded) in Nay Pyi Taw through videoconferencing yesterday. Chairman of the Tatmadaw Medical Research and Development Committee, Director of Medical Services Brig-Gen Ko

Ko Lwin, Senior Military Officials, medical specialists, medics and nurses, international medical experts from Singapore, Laos, Thailand and the Philippines, invitees and interested persons attended the conference. A total of 674 medical workers from other Tatmadaw hospitals and medical corps also joined the conference via the

internet from 162 places. At the conference, the topics “Update on Management of Cervical Cancer”, “Digital Dentistry”, “Brain and Cognition”, “E-learning: Meeting the Challenges”, “Therapy of Hepatitis B: Today and Tomorrow”, “Septicaemia: Challenges for Physician” and “Better Balance for Secure Movement” were discussed as symposium

and six “Special Talks” were held. Besides, a total of 16 research papers on Medicine, Mental Health and Biochemistry were submitted at the event. After announcing the first, second and third place winners for the best research paper and poster awards and Young Researcher Award, the Director Brig-Gen Ko Ko Lwin concluded the conference. — MNA

Union Minister U Aung Than Oo receives Ambassador of Malaysia in Nay Pyi Taw



UNION Minister for Electricity and Energy U Aung Than Oo received Ambassador of Malaysia to Myanmar Mr Zahairi Baharim and party yesterday morning in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, they discussed the installation of the Acid Gas Removal Unit (AGRU) in the Yedagon Offshore Project, which was operated by Petronas Carigali Myanmar Limited, Malaysia, capacity development activities for the Rooftop Solar project, recruitment and training of more Myanmar staff in the company, capacity develop-

ment training programmes that offer company staff post-graduate course and training at Malaysian universities, further cooperation for the electricity and energy sector between the two countries and investment opportunities.

The meeting was also attended by Deputy Minister for Electricity and Energy U Thant Sin, Permanent Secretary U Than Zaw and departmental officials, representatives from the Malaysia Embassy and officials from Petronas Carigali Myanmar Limited (PCML). — MNA

The MoEE Union minister receives the Malaysian ambassador and party yesterday.

World Health Day 2021 celebrated in Nay Pyi Taw

THE Ministry of Health and Sports celebrated World Health Day 2021 in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the ceremony, Union Minister Dr Thet Khine Win said the theme for today World Health Day is “Building a fairer, healthier world”. The COVID-19 vaccination programmes are also conducted as planned. Those who received vaccines also need to be aware of basic COVID-19 preventive measures.

The Union Minister also discussed the systematic healthcare index for a reference regarding the public healthcare services to prevent unfair treatment and priority sectors from providing

primary healthcare services for the people living in remote areas.

The staff of our Ministry of Health and Sports must provide health care to the people. It should consider whether the current doings are appropriate and it is time to return to their duties.

He urged the attendees to make efforts in implementing quality and fair healthcare services for entire people.

Then, the video clip titled “Building a fairer and healthier world” was played. After the ceremony, the Union Minister, Deputy Minister, and other attendees inspected World Health Day’s exhibition. —MNA



Union Minister Dr Thet Khine Win makes the speech on the occasion of World Health Day 2021 celebration yesterday.

Union Auditor-General meets audit offices’ staff in Nay Pyi Taw



Auditor-General of the Union Dr Kan Zaw holds talks with Audit Offices’ staff yesterday.

AUDITOR-General of the Union Dr Kan Zaw met with the Audit Offices staff in the Nay Pyi Taw Council Territory yesterday morning in Nay Pyi Taw.

At the meeting, the Auditor-General said the State Administration Council is carrying out the State’s duties under the Constitution.

He instructed to explain the guidelines of the State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to the officials of their departments so that they would know the real situation of the country and understand the democracy and

its procedures.

He explained the five roadmaps and nine objectives of the State Administration Council. He said to perform duty as per the Civil Service Law, rules and codes of ethics and the need to avoid participating in the CDM campaign and stop the colleagues and family.

He said it is necessary to check the financial account, the compliance with the rules and regulations, and the implementation work to ensure the State’s real benefit under the Auditor-General of the Union Law.

He added the training courses would be open to de-

veloping human resources for the country’s future and providing a systematic staff welfare scheme for employees, and arrangements will be made to provide COVID-19 vaccine to all staff.

He instructed to ensure the inspections to be completed on time, systematically draw up the inspection plan, and issue quality audit reports and visual reviews.

The Permanent Secretary, the Director-General, the Deputy Permanent Secretary and officials from the township and district-level audit offices in the Nay Pyi Taw Council Territory attended the meeting. — MNA

Announcement of Union Election Commission

5 April 2021

1. Regarding the Multiparty General Election held on 8 November 2020, the Union Election Commission has inspected the voter lists and the casting of votes of Seikpyu, Pauk and Taungdwingyi townships of Magway Region.
2. Findings in respective townships were as follows:

Findings on voter lists in each township

Sr	Township and numbers of polling stations	Township sub-commis-sion	List from Immigration department	Those involved in voting list without citizenship scrutiny cards	Those involved in voter list more than three times holding one CSC	Those involved in voter list more than two times hold-ing one CS
1	103 polling stations in Seikpyu Township of Magway Region	86,595	84,078	2,166	631	9,680
2	213 polling stations in Pauk Township of Magway Region	148,311	136,781	9,350	1,304	17,792
3	284 polling stations in Taungdwingyi Township of Magway Region	219,112	173,557	11,150	3,444	33,186

3. The Union Election Commission has inspected the withdrawal/receipt/use/remaining of ballot papers used for Pyithu Hluttaw Election of Seikpyu, Pauk and Taungdwingyi townships of Magway Region together with the respective township election sub-commission, head of police force, Immigration and Population and administrator according to the Hluttaw Election Law Section 53.
4. According to the inspection, a total of 600 polling stations in these three townships took out 519,534 ballots and used 343,406 ballots. It left 166,639 ballots instead of 176,128 ballots. The difference was 11,889 and it found 2,400 extra ballots. The extra/shortage ballots and illegal extra ballots were found at respective poll stations. Findings were as follows:

Findings on ballot papers for Pyithu Hluttaw Election in each township

Sr	Township	Total polling station	Withdrawal	Used	Exact remaining	Remaining on the Ground	Difference	
							Missing	Extra
1	Seikpyu	103	99,805	69,584	30,221	31,061	1,205	2,045
2	Pauk	213	172,246	11,4210	58,036	54,824	3,567	355
3	Taungdwingyi	284	247,483	15,9612	87,871	80,754	7,117	
	Total	600	519,534	34,3406	176,128	166,639	11,889	2,400

Findings on ballot papers for Pyithu Hluttaw Election in Seikpyu Township

5. According to the inspection, a total of 103 polling stations in 43 village-tracts in 3 wards of Seikpyu Township in Magway Region took out 99,805 ballots and used 69,584 ballots. It left 31,061 ballots instead of 30,221. The shortage/extra ballots were found at the respective polling stations. Findings were as follows:

Sr	Subject	Withdrawal	Used	Exact remaining	Remaining on the Ground	Difference	
						Missing	Extra
1	Ward/village tract ballots	95,850	69,081	26,769	27,301	1,205	1,737
2	Township advance ballots	513	503	10	10		
3	Township remaining ballots	3,442		3,442	3,750		308
	Township Total	99,805	69,584	30,221	31,061	1,205	2,045

6. At 103 polling stations in 43 village-tracts in 3 wards of Seikpyu Township, it found 1,205 missing ballots and 1,737 extra ballots. They took out 513 township advance ballots and used 503 ballots. They left only 10 ballots. Although the township election sub-commission must have 3,442 remaining ballots, it found 3,750 in the inspection and so it found 308 extra ballots.

7. Findings were as follows:

Sr	Ward/Village Tract	Total Polling Stations	Withdrawal	Used	Exact re-maining	Remaining on the Ground	Difference	
							Missing	Extra
1	Anautpine Ward	2	3,200	2,287	913	962		49
2	Ywarthit Ward	1	1,650	1,240	410	410		
3	Koetaunt Village-tract	3	3,000	2,326	674	828		154
4	Kabargyi Village-tract	1	1,100	835	265	265		
5	Chintaung Village-tract	3	3,200	2,137	1,063	1,203		140
6	Myinkawa Village-tract	3	3,150	2,059	1,091	1,051	40	
7	Tegyi Village-tract	2	1,850	1,156	694	694		
8	Myaygyantaw Village-tract	2	13,00	857	443	243	200	
9	Htainkan Village-tract	2	2,150	1,680	470	470		
10	Gwaypin Village-tract	2	2,400	1,877	523	523		
11	Magyigone Village-tract	1	750	556	194	194		
12	Ywarthaaye Village-tract	2	1,450	951	499	499		
13	Kanzonma Village-tract	4	2,800	2,017	783	787		4

14	Kyuntaw Village-tract	2	1,300	885	415	415		
15	Koneywar Village-tract	3	2,150	1,612	538	538		
16	Kyaungywar Village-tract	3	2,850	2,091	759	860		101
17	Thetkeyyin Village-tract	4	2,550	1,780	770	770		
18	Hngetkwe Village-tract	3	1,850	1,346	504	579		75
19	Shaukpinain Village-tract	1	1,150	894	256	256		
20	Hngetpyargyi Village-tract	2	2,900	2,520	380	380		
21	Kawton Village-tract	2	2,000	1,468	532	532		
22	Kyunchaung Village-tract	2	1,400	924	476	476		
23	Sharhla Village-tract	3	2,100	1,544	556	606		50
24	Nyaungnichaung Village-tract	2	1,350	925	425	425		
25	Ywarthitgyi Village-tract	1	1,250	849	401	401		
26	Yawwa Village-tract	1	1,700	1,203	497	497		
27	Alepine Village-tract	1	1,550	923	627	327	300	
28	Chaungmagyi Village-tract	4	3,450	2,808	642	1,024		382
29	Pintale Village-tract	1	1,250	1,158	92	96		4

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30	Dawtha Village-tract	2	1,500	1,097	403	214	189	
31	Paytaw Village-tract	2	1,550	1,378	172	322		150
32	Anoutkantwin Village-tract	1	800	486	314	214	100	
33	Yaypoke Village-tract	1	700	435	265	265		
34	Ashaekantwin Vil-lage-tract	2	2,400	1,786	614	578	36	
35	Letse Village-tract	2	1,500	961	539	554		15
36	Tetma Village-tract	2	2,100	1,400	700	700		
37	Saikkham Village-tract	2	1,700	1,312	388	388		
38	Ywarma Village-tract	2	2,050	1,604	446	446		
39	Sharpinaine Village-tract	2	1,750	1,194	556	566		10
40	Kyarbay Village-tract	2	1,750	1,162	588	588		

41	Htammakauk Village-tract	3	2,250	1,493	757	757		
42	Ainkan Village-tract	3	2,300	1,766	534	833		299
43	Kyaukgyi Village-tract	5	5,400	3,920	1,480	1,480		
44	Kinmontaunt Village-tract	3	2,650	1,568	1,082	1,082		
45	AnoutKampyu Village-tract	3	2,500	1,923	577	881		304
46	Kushey Village-tract	3	4,150	2,688	1,462	1,122	340	
	Ward/village tract ballots	103	95,850	6,9081	26,769	27,301	1,205	1,737
	Township Advance ballots		513	503	10	10		
	Township Remain-ing ballots		3,442		3,442	3,750		308
	Township Total	103	99,805	6,9584	30,221	31,061	1,205	2,045

Findings on ballot papers for Pyithu Hluttaw Election in Pauk Township

8. According to the inspection, a total of 213 polling stations in 71 village-tracts in 4 wards of Pauk Township in Magway Region took out 172,246 ballots and used 114,210 ballots. It left 54,824 ballots instead of 58,036 ballots. It also found the one ballot paper book used at No (1) polling station of Kyaung Kone Village-tract did not bear voters’ names, polling station number and names of ward/village-tract. The shortage/extra ballots were found at respective polling stations. Findings were as follows:

Sr	Subject	Withdrawal	Used	Exact remaining	Remaining on the Ground	Difference	
						Missing	Extra
1	Ward/village tract ballots	166,000	113,715	52,285	49,073	3,567	355
2	Township advance ballots	495	495				
3	Township remaining ballots	5,751		5,751	5,751		
Total		172,246	114,210	58,036	54,824	3,567	355

9. A total of 3,567 ballots were missing and it found 355 extra ballots at 213 polling stations in 71 village-tracts in 4 wards of Pauk Township. They took out and used 495 township advance ballots, and it found 5,751 remaining ballots and so the numbers are conformity with the findings.

10. Findings were as follows:

Sr	Ward/Village Tract	Total Polling Sta-tions	Withdrawal	Used	Exact remaining	Remaining on the Ground	Difference	
							Missing	Extra
1	Aungtakhon Ward	2	2,700	1,953	747	647	100	
2	Aungtawmu Ward	1	1,500	1,079	421	421		
3	Aungchantha Ward	1	1,400	1,307	93	103		10
4	Shwepaukpin Ward	1	1,350	962	388	378	10	
5	Htantapin Village-tract	4	2,350	1653	697	697		
6	Aine Kine Village-tract	4	2,550	1,774	776	714	62	
7	Thanpuyaaaine Village-tract	4	2,950	2,173	777	777		
8	Phrataung Village-tract	2	1,,700	1,223	477	504		27
9	Deedoke Village-tract	2	2,050	1,573	477	527		50
10	Boepyulonekan Village-tract	3	2,700	1,972	728	678	50	
11	Khinshae Village-tract	5	2,650	1925	725	759		34
12	Tepinkan Village-tract	1	500	372	128	128		
13	Taungmyint Village-tract	4	4,150	3,122	1,028	878	150	
14	Zipyugone Village-tract	1	450	317	133	133		
15	Tetawya Village-tract	3	2,700	1,882	818	767	51	
16	Chaungna Village-tract	2	1,450	926	524	544		20
17	Kailei Village-tract	2	2,850	1,802	1,048	898	150	
18	Tetkone Village-tract	2	2,150	1,433	717	747		30
19	Taungbet Village-tract	2	1,950	1,238	712	562	150	
20	Kinsoke Village-tract	1	450	288	162	162		
21	Kinma Village-tract	3	1,950	1,431	519	539		20
22	Taungcho Village-tract	1	500	393	107	107		
23	Tasu Village-tract	3	2,100	1,273	827	755	72	

24	Tetkeyyin Village-tract	1	1,700	1,000	700	700		
25	Aintaw Village-tract	3	1,650	1,262	388	338	50	
26	Taputsu Village-tract	4	2,950	1,959	991	841	150	
27	Lelan Village-tract	3	2,950	2,180	770	830		60
28	Kyaukkar Village-tract	5	4,000	2,452	1,548	1,261	287	
29	Wunchone Village-tract	4	2,500	1,701	799	829		30
30	Gwegone Village-tract	5	3,000	2,091	909	909		
31	Wetpoke Village-tract	1	350	250	100	100		
32	Sathein Village-tract	3	3,200	2,208	992	992		
33	Dattaw Village-tract	1	1,250	822	428	278	150	
34	Wuntin Village-tract	1	1,800	1,313	487	487		
35	Aintma Village-tract	1	1,000	770	230	130	100	
36	Myaukbet Village-tract	4	3,350	2,585	765	765		
37	Lintaug Village-tract	1	700	464	236	236		
38	Hmyarpine Village-tract	6	4,800	3,205	1,595	1,467	128	
39	Palung Village-tract	2	1,500	996	504	504		
40	Chaungku Village-tract	3	3,150	2,169	981	931	50	
41	Yaipyu Village-tract	1	650	556	94	94		
42	Sapan Village-tract	3	2,250	1,532	718	718		
43	Kukar Village-tract	7	4,150	2,540	1,610	1,370	240	
44	Zepyar Village-tract	2	2,100	1,230	870	720	150	
45	Zaunghlarpin Vil-lage-tract	3	1,450	1,037	413	363	50	
46	Leaoh Village-tract	1	1,250	977	273	273		
47	Thetyetkan Village-tract	4	3,800	2,772	1,028	888	140	
48	Kyauktinekhin Village-tract	6	5,400	3,838	1,562	1,437	125	
49	Kyaukmasin Village-tract	3	1,200	850	350	350		
50	Khaungpaung Village-tract	2	1,250	924	326	326		

51	Htantaw Village-tract	1	650	486	164	164		
52	Kyawtha Village-tract	1	450	342	108	108		
53	Kapine (south) Village-tract	5	2,550	2,020	530	480	50	
54	Thamartaw Village-tract	3	1,550	950	600	600		
55	Yaypyar Vil-lage-tract	2	2,150	1,547	603	603		
56	Sepin Village-tract	4	2,450	1,485	965	995		30
57	Ngamohgyi Vil-lage-tract	2	1,700	1,394	306	306		
58	Kokkosu Vil-lage-tract	3	2,600	1,375	1,225	1,225		
59	Pyinchaung Vil-lage-tract	5	3,500	2,271	1,229	1,229		
60	Nan U Yin Vil-lage-tract	2	1,100	749	351	351		
61	Sulegone Vil-lage-tract	5	2,900	1,880	1,020	920	100	
62	Nyaungwon Vil-lage-tract	5	2,950	1,925	1,025	1,016	9	
63	Kyunyin Vil-lage-tract	2	2,000	1,137	863	693	170	
64	Kyaunggone Vil-lage-tract	2	1,650	1,075	575	575		
65	Tokesu Vil-lage-tract	1	1,100	786	314	314		

66	Nanttha Vil-lage-tract	9	8,350	5,675	2,675	2,719		44
67	Nyaungwinpauk Village-tract	3	1,750	1,194	556	256	300	
68	Myokhintha Vil-lage-tract	1	500	354	146	146		
69	Chyinezauk Vil-lage-tract	3	2,250	1,659	591	591		
70	Saphe Vil-lage-tract	4	2,650	1,,643	1,007	934	73	
71	Kapyo Vil-lage-tract	4	3,950	2,535	1,415	1,415		
72	Tinngokeypyin Village-tract	5	4,150	2,626	1,524	1,274	250	
73	Ainetain Vil-lage-tract	1	750	499	251	51	200	
74	Thanetpinzin Village-tract	1	500	292	208	208		
75	Kambarpyu Vil-lage-tract	5	3,400	2,062	1,338	1,338		
	Ward/village tract ballots	213	166,000	113,715	52,285	49,073	3,567	355
	Township advance ballots		495	495				
	Township Remain-ing ballots		5,751		5,751	5,751		
	Township Total	213	172,246	114,210	58,036	54,824	3,567	355

Findings on ballot papers for Pyithu Hluttaw Election in Taungdwingyi Township

11. According to the inspection, a total of 284 polling stations in 72 village-tracts in 10 wards of Taungdwingyi Township of Magway Region took out 247,483 ballots and used 159,612 ballots. It left 80,754 ballots instead of 87,871. Findings were as follows:

Sr	Subject	Withdrawal	Used	Exact remaining	Remaining on the Ground	Difference	
						Missing	Extra
1	Ward/Village-tract ballots	244,900	158,442	86,458	79,341	7,117	
2	Township advance ballots	2,383	1,170	1,213	1,213		
3	Township Remaining ballots	200		200	200		
Total		247,483	159,612	87,871	80,754	7,117	

12. A total of 7,117 ballots were missing at 284 polling stations in 82 Ward and village-tracts of Taungdwingyi Township. There are 200 remaining ballots at township election sub-commission.

13. Findings were as follows:

Sr	Ward/village tract	Total Polling station	Withdrawal	Used	Exact Remain-ing	Remaining on the ground	Differ-ence	
							Missing	Extra
1	Taungpyin (1) Ward	2	3,850	2,559	1,291	491	800	
2	Taungpyin (2) Ward	2	3,250	2,474	776	776		
3	Maungtine (1) Ward	2	2,450	1,652	798	798		
4	Maungtine (2) Ward	4	6,800	4,964	1,836	1,836		
5	Shweaoe (1) Ward	5	5,350	3,348	2,002	2,002		
6	Shweaoe (2) Ward	3	4,700	2,717	1,983	1,483	500	
7	Shwekyarain (1) Ward	2	4,350	2,421	1,929	1,683	246	
8	Shwekyarain (2) Ward	1	1,,650	1,148	502	502		
9	Ohntaw (1)Ward	2	4,550	3,,027	1,523	1,275	248	
10	Ohntaw (2)Ward	2	3,850	2,,809	1,041	1,041		
11	Yay O o Vil-lage-tract	6	3,450	2,229	1,221	1,221		
12	Tayokekaw Vil-lage-tract	5	3,600	2,324	1,276	1,005	271	
13	Hingayaw Vil-lage-tract	5	4,300	2,676	1,624	1,574	50	
14	Wachangkar Vil-lage-tract	3	1,350	954	396	396		
15	Kokkokwe Vil-lage-tract	3	2,650	1,726	924	924		
16	Pyartu Vil-lage-tract	2	1,050	638	412	412		
17	Nyaunggone Vil-lage-tract	3	1,400	896	504	484	20	
18	Ainywargyi Vil-lage-tract	1	550	356	194	194		
19	Ohnehnentan Vil-lage-tract	1	1,300	817	483	483		

20	Letpanshae Village-tract	3	2,350	1,729	621	621		
21	Shankine Village-tract	2	2,000	1,237	763	723	40	
22	Khinte Village-tract	5	4,000	2,369	1,631	1,285	346	
23	Panthwinlay Village-tract	3	1,900	1,314	586	586		
24	Panthwingyi Village-tract	4	4,200	2,778	1,422	1,422		
25	Letpanbu Village-tract	1	1,100	691	409	409		
26	Aungsu Village-tract	8	6,050	3,629	2,421	2,421		
27	Ngahmin Village-tract	9	5,250	2,951	2,299	2,099	200	
28	Thitya Village-tract	2	1,850	1,267	583	581	2	
29	Pwinthlagyi Village-tract	2	2,300	1719	581	581		
30	Thihla Village-tract	1	600	408	192	192		
31	Nyaungpinhla Village-tract	4	3,200	1,995	1,205	1,109	96	
32	Bogone Village-tract	3	1,650	1,144	506	456	50	
33	Aingone Village-tract	3	2,550	1,652	898	898		
34	Zetaw Village-tract	6	6,800	4,415	2,385	2,335	50	
35	Pauk Village-tract	2	800	540	260	260		
36	Setthwar Village-tract	5	6,400	4,425	1,975	1,919	56	
37	Kyansu Village-tract	2	1,600	884	716	716		
38	Pyaehtnyee Village-tract	1	1,650	1,025	625	625		
39	Kanpaygyi Village-tract	6	3,400	2,266	1,134	1,134		
40	Kinpontaung Village-tract	7	7,400	4,444	29,56	1,848	1,108	

Try the best to serve the people

STATE service personnel are those discharging duties of the State and the people for their interests. So, they are dubbed as State service personnel as well as public service personnel. They deserve to take pride in their duty in carrying out their respective jobs with goodwill.

Images of noble State service personnel were dirty in political changes in February 2021. While some politicians focusing on destruction acts committed incitements for CDM activity, some personnel were absent at workplaces. Those service personnel joined CDM activity based on emotional feeling, provocation, misunderstanding and coercion.

It is uneasy for being a noble staff. They have been serving their duties with skilful techniques for a long time. The government waited in a patient manner for the personnel to have a proper conscience for the sake of the State and the people.

Service personnel are urged to resume serving duties for the State and public interests without political colours and wrong attitudes.

ing their duties. Especially, patients are waiting for health staff while students remember teachers.

Some hospitals are closed as medical doctors join CDM activity. Local people seek help from the Tatmadaw for health care services. Tatmadaw government allows the staff wishing to return to workplaces.

Only when they do not continue serving will substitute staff be appointed in vacant posts. That is why personnel are requested to join the workplaces for reopening schools and hospitals for public interests.

Service personnel are urged to resume serving duties for the State and public interests without political colours and wrong attitudes.

■ ■ ■

Together, towards a fairer and healthier post-COVID-19 world

By Dr Poonam Khetrapal Singh,
Regional Director, WHO South-East Asia Region

Why we must seize the moment to advance health equity and achieve universal health coverage

THIS World Health Day, WHO is highlighting the opportunity we have to build a fairer and healthier post-COVID-19 world. For well over a year now, marginalized and disenfranchised communities across the world and in the South-East Asia Region have borne the brunt of the COVID-19 pandemic. In countries rich and poor, socio-economic, political, educational and geographic factors among others have facilitated the spread of the SARS-CoV2 virus, impacting health outcomes and compounding inequalities. In our unequal world, preventable social and economic inequities continue to impede the right of everyone, everywhere, to achieve the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health – an injustice that we must not accept.

COVID-19 is just the latest disease to expose, exploit and exacerbate inequalities that negatively impact health and socioeconomic outcomes between and among vulnerable groups. In countries at all levels of income and development, health and

illness follow a social gradient: The lower the socio-economic position, the worse the health and the poorer the access to health services of adequate quality. This is why the burden of communicable diseases in the Region such as TB, hepatitis and HIV is most acute among poor and disadvantaged populations, which has the tragic effect of entrenching these communities' poverty and marginalization. And that is why noncommunicable diseases such as stroke and heart disease can be more commonly found among populations that are exposed to socially determined risk factors such as unplanned urbanization and inadequate housing, which can contribute to household air pollution, food insecurity and malnutrition.

To remedy these and other health inequities, and to create a fairer and healthier post-pandemic world, WHO is calling on leaders in the health sector and beyond to make concerted efforts throughout the COVID-19 response and recovery to ensure that all people have living and working conditions that are

conducive to lifelong health and well-being. Clean water and air, income and social protection, and food security among other environmental and public policy goods are vital to achieving this goal, and can best be secured through a "health-in-all-policies" approach that is gender-responsive and human rights-focused, and which advances the core principle of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda: Leave no one behind.

Health systems themselves have a critical role to play. Since 2014 the Region has pursued universal health coverage (UHC) as a Flagship Priority, with the aim of ensuring all people have access to the health services they need, when and where they need them, without financial hardship. And we have made real progress. Trend data from the Region's 2020 monitoring report show that health service coverage is now, on average, above 63%, as compared with 49% a decade ago. The density of health workers – around 70% of whom are women – continues to increase, with nine countries now above the

first WHO threshold, compared with six in 2014.

But the fiscal constraints imposed by the pandemic threaten to stall or even reverse progress unless budgets are actively reprioritized and health is apportioned additional resources. New sources of revenue should be explored, for example increases in taxation on unhealthy products such as tobacco, alcohol and sugar-sweetened beverages. Value for money must continue to be improved, including through investments in primary health care and pro-poor initiatives that help mitigate the social determinants of health.

Crucially, communities must continue to be engaged and listened to – precisely as they have been throughout the COVID-19 response. Community outreach and empowerment, including through women-led organizations, can help identify the root causes of inequities and find localized solutions, and also enhance coordination between health and social services and target communities. The whole-of-government,

whole-of-society approaches that countries have mobilized to respond to the pandemic provide a compelling model by which they can accelerate progress towards UHC, and with it, Sustainable Development Goal 3 and the wider Sustainable Development Agenda.

On the Region's onward journey, countries must continue to prioritize the collection of high-quality, timely and reliable health data. To adequately uncover inequities and enable policies that tackle them, health data should be collected on a disaggregated basis and analysed by key stratifiers for inequities, such as by sex, geography, income, education, or other pertinent metrics. The findings should then be fed into health policy-making and implementation. The Region's WHO-supported Health Information Platform, which provides an integrated database of country progress across a range of indicators, must continue to be leveraged to close gaps and eliminate disparities.

We can – and must – prevail. The emergence and spread



Dr Poonam Khetrapal Singh

of COVID-19 has laid bare the inequities that influence health outcomes between and among groups in the Region and across the world, and which make us all more health-insecure. We must reduce and ultimately end those inequities and accelerate towards UHC. All people have the right to achieve the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health. A fairer and healthier Region and world is possible. We must dare to be bold and achieve our vision.

COVID-19: AstraZeneca vaccine benefits still 'largely positive'



Machad, a health worker in Benin, proudly displays his vaccination record after taking his first dose of AstraZeneca vaccine. PHOTO: UN NEWS

THE benefits of the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine are still "largely positive" and outweigh risk of rare but serious blood clots, according to

an official with the World Health Organization (WHO), speaking on Tuesday during the agency's regular press briefing from Geneva.

Dr Rogério Pinto de Sá

Gaspar, Director for Regulation and Prequalification, was responding to a journalist's question regarding links between the vaccine and cerebral venous

sinus thrombosis, a rare blood clotting syndrome.

The European Medicines Agency (EMA) on Tuesday denied that it had established any link, following reports that one of its experts stated there was a connection.

Expert meetings underway

Meanwhile, an EMA committee that monitors the safety of medicines has been meeting to assess the data, which is also being reviewed by a regulatory body in the United Kingdom. WHO is following both proceedings.

"What we can say is that the appraisal that we have for the moment, and this is under consideration by the experts, is that the benefit risk assessment for the vaccine is still largely positive", said Dr Pinto de Sá Gaspar.

He reported that "thrombotic events" are rare, and are now being categorized in terms of their distribution within the population.

"For the time being, there is no evidence that the benefit risk assessment for the vaccine needs to be changed", he added. "And we know from the data coming from countries like the UK and others, that the benefits are really important in terms of reduction of the mortality of populations that are being vaccinated."

WHO's Global Advisory Committee on Vaccine Safety is due to meet on Wednesday, which also will look at the data, with a conclusion expected later in the week.

Stigma and virus variants WHO continues to work with a group of scientists worldwide to

develop nomenclature for variants of the new coronavirus that causes COVID-19.

Many people, including health experts, have been referring to the variants by the countries in which they were first detected, something the UN agency wants to change.

"We need to make sure that any of the names that are used do not further stigmatize a person, or a last name, or a location, inadvertently", said Dr Maria Van Kerkhove, WHO technical lead on COVID-19, responding to a question from a South African journalist.

"There should be no stigma associated with these viruses being detected, and unfortunately we still see that happening."

Source : UN News

Newspapers to be published alternately for Myanmar New Year holidays

THE News and Periodicals Enterprise of the Ministry of Information announced that daily newspapers would be published in turns during the Myanmar New Year holidays.

While the Mirror and the Global New Light of Myanmar newspapers will be published on 13, 14 and 15 April, and the Myanma Alinn will temporarily cease publishing operations during this period.

While the Myanma Alinn newspapers will resume operations on 16, 17, 18 and 19 April, the Mirror and the Global New Light of Myanmar will temporarily cease operations on those days.

Similarly, the Shwe Pyi Rakhine Ponyeik sector from Sub-Printing House (Sittway) will temporarily cease printing on 14 April, the extra pages in Shan ethnic language from the Sub-Printing House (Taunggyi) will temporarily cease printing operations on 15 April, the extra pages in ethnic languages from the Sub-Printing House (Mawlamyine) will temporarily cease printing operations on 18 April. They will resume normal production after the Myanmar New Year holidays.

Advertisements will be received at the newspaper offices, which will remain open during these holidays. All newspapers will resume normal production starting 20 April. — News and Periodicals Enterprise

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Wednesday 7 April 2021)

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy over the Andaman Sea and Southeast Bay and a few cloud elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 8 April 2021: Weather will be partly cloudy in Nay Pyi Taw, Lower Sagaing, Mandalay Regions and Shan, Rakhine and Kayah States. Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Tanintharyi Region and isolated in the Remaining regions and states. Degree of certainty is (80%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (5 -8)feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of increase of days temperatures in Nay Pyi Taw, Lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady Regions and Shan, Rakhine, Kayah States.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 8 April 2021: Partly cloudy.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 8 April 2021: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 8 April 2021:Partly cloudy.

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Announcement of Union Election Commission

FROM PAGE-7

41	Simehtun Village-tract	3	2,900	2,038	862	862			65	Letha(2) Village-tract	2	3,450	2,170	1,280	1,280		
42	Pintine Village-tract	4	4,450	2,955	1,495	1,243	252		66	Sittha Village-tract	7	4,100	2,825	1,275	1,275		
43	Chaungnet Village-tract	8	7,050	4,667	2,383	2,135	248		67	Paypinyar Village-tract	2	2,400	1,778	622	622		
44	Kanhla Village-tract	4	3,250	2,105	1,145	1,041	104		68	Yaytwinkaung Village-tract	3	2,200	1,666	534	534		
45	Pantawnge Village-tract	4	2,700	1,894	806	758	48		69	Lettet Village-tract	3	2,250	1,448	802	802		
46	Kyatkhethkan Village-tract	1	1,250	862	388	338	50		70	Nyartaw Village-tract	2	1,950	1,228	722	649	73	
47	Kywekan Village-tract	1	500	316	184	184			71	Kantha Village-tract	4	2,350	1,570	780	778	2	
48	Aingyingone Village-tract	2	2,200	1,489	711	711			72	Kyethlyar Village-tract	4	2,200	1,376	824	824		
49	Yayway Village-tract	5	3,450	1,986	1,464	864	600		73	Hmokeshae Village-tract	5	1,950	1,260	690	689	1	
50	Koepin Village-tract	3	1,900	1,291	609	609			74	Leiktaik Village-tract	2	1,400	959	441	441		
51	Yargyitaw Village-tract	4	2,300	1,475	825	825			75	Wathonepyue Village-tract	2	1,550	915	635	635		
52	Hleepwegyi Village-tract	2	1,450	925	525	325	200		76	Kyoechaung Village-tract	5	4,400	2,633	1,767	1,762	5	
53	Sukaukgyi Village-tract	5	2,700	1,824	876	826	50		77	Taunghlaung Village-tract	7	4,000	2,543	1,457	1,403	54	
54	Nyargamoe Village-tract	7	4,000	2,607	1,393	1,193	200		78	Petlegyi Village-tract	3	3,200	2,038	1,162	1,082	80	
55	Miauaung Village-tract	3	1,550	1,055	495	495			79	Aoepauk Village-tract	3	1,700	1,000	700	650	50	
56	Thitpokegone Village-tract	1	650	363	287	187	100		80	Kalama Village-tract	3	4,200	2,517	1,683	1,632	51	
57	Tetaw (1) Village-tract	3	1,450	903	547	497	50		81	Talokegone Village-tract	4	3,250	1,899	1,351	1,351		
58	Tetaw (2) Village-tract	4	2,200	1,516	684	684			82	Kangyigone Village-tract	4	3,550	2,242	1,308	1,058	250	
59	Wetkathay Village-tract	4	3,700	2,440	1,260	1,190	70			Ward/village tract total	284	244,900	158,442	86,458	79,341	7117	
60	Thirimingalar Village-tract	1	400	221	179	179				Township Advance ballots		2,383	1,170	1,213	1,213		
61	Kokkogone Village-tract	5	6,750	4,336	2,414	2,122	292			Township Remaining ballots		200		200	200		
62	Taikepwe Village-tract	2	2,050	1,193	857	857				Township Total	284	247,483	159,612	87,871	80,754	7,117	
63	Gonhnyintan Village-tract	6	5,300	3,308	1,992	1,788	204										
64	Letha(1) Village-tract	4	3,150	1,989	1,161	1,161											

Union Election Commission

Workshop on increasing coverage of Early Childhood Care and Development activities held



Union Minister Dr Thet Thet Khine attends the workshop on raising the ECCD coverage yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

THE Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement held a workshop on raising the coverage of early childhood care and development activities through a virtual system yesterday morning in Nay Pyi Taw.

The workshop was attend-

ed by Union Minister Dr Thet Thet Khine, Directors-General, Deputy Directors-General, Social Welfare Officers and officials from the regions/states and Nay Pyi Taw Council.

The Union Minister said the ministry is developing and imple-

menting policies and strategies needed by social groups for all ages to provide social services in line with the Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan- MSDP), adding the importance of the early childhood care and development activity.

She added the need to cooperate with the Early Childhood Development and Technology Working Group and the private sector to reopen pre-schools that have been closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic and to increase the coverage of pre-primary education. The Union Minister continued quality pre-primary education is also as important as the coverage. She called for discussion to focus on providing pre-primary education to children in special conditions. She added that the workshop is vital for the country's future generations to accelerate the work of early childhood care and development. It is an essential investment for future growth.

The Director-General of the Department of Social Welfare said




increasing pre-primary attendance rates requires coordination, joint efforts and cooperation between policymakers and implementers. Before the children go to the Basic Education schools of the Ministry of Education, the Social Welfare Department have to carry out training for them. He urged to focus the discussion on improving the quality of pre-schools, increasing pre-school attendance coverage, and strengthening interconnection between government organizations and local/foreign non-governmental organizations and private sector.

The attendees discussed the development of pre-primary education to increase pre-primary school attendance and the budget of ECCD, and collaboration and inclusive ECCD. — MNA

Those spreading news to affect State stability charged under Section 505-A

The following celebrities and people have been charged under Section 505-A of the Penal Code for intentionally committing incitements to the government employees to join CDM to affect government mechanism and for spreading information showing their support for unlawful CRPH including fake news and other information to unrest riots and threaten the public on the social media.

The list of people charged under Section 505-A of the Penal Code

Sr	Account name	Profile	Address	Section of Penal Code	Photo	Sr	Account name	Profile	Address	Section of Penal Code	Photo
1	TU TU https://www.facebook.com/TUTUsinger	Tu Tu(a) Min Kyaw Thu 	Kandawlay Ward, Mingalartaungnyunt Township, Yangon Region	505-a		12	Hlaing Min Oo https://www.facebook.com/hlaingmin.oo	Hlaing Min Oo 	Zabuthiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area	505-a	
2	Htet Shine Aung https://www.facebook.com/little.shinelay	Htet Shine Aung 	Sangyoung Township, Yangon Region	505-a		13	Maung Saung-kha https://www.facebook.com/poet.maungsaungkha	Si Thu Aung 	Thongwa Township, Yangon Region	505-a	
3	Ni Ni Moe https://www.facebook.com/mama.moe.73932	Ni Ni Moe 	Nyaungdon Township, Ayeyawady Region	505-a		14	Bal Kyaw https://www.facebook.com/bal.kyaw.58	Khin San Shwe 	Shwe Thukhita Cloths Shop, Gyogone Street, Insein Township, Yangon Region	505-a	
4	Thorn Nay Soe https://www.facebook.com/thornnaysoe	Thorn Nay Soe 	Insein Township, Yangon Region	505-a		15	Phyo Theingi Kyaw https://www.facebook.com/phyo.theingi.3	Phyo Theingi Kyaw 	Phyo Ei Kyaw Amber Shop, Aung San Ward, Insein Township, Yangon Region	505-a	
5	Saw Chan Aye https://www.facebook.com/100013163021247	Thaw Zin Win 	Hline Township, Yangon Region	505-a		16	Bollyhood Khant https://www.facebook.com/Bollyhood.Khant	Aye Min Khant Tun 	Zabuthiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area	505-a	
6	Su Su Hlaing https://www.facebook.com/su.su.hlaing.9480	Su Su Hlaing 	“Saunggout Shwesu” Cheroot Cottage Industry, Myingyan Township, Mandalay Region	505-a		17	Cdm Linn https://www.facebook.com/CdMLinn	Ye Lin Bo 	Lewe Township, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area	505-a	
7	Kolin https://www.facebook.com/kolin.nld	Zaw Lin 	No. 1 Ward, Myawady Township, Kayin State	505-a		18	Thuta Kyaw https://www.facebook.com/PHOENIXThuta	Thuta Kyaw 	Dagon Myothit (East) Township, Yangon Region	505-a	
8	Tha Noe Wai https://www.facebook.com/thanoewai	Tha Noe Wai 	Sangyoung Township, Yangon Region	505-a		19	Tin Mar Aye https://www.facebook.com/tinmar.aye.986227	Tin Mar Aye 	Staff of Chatrium Hotel Royal Lake Yangon Mayangon Township, Yangon Region	505-a	
9	Ye Wint Thu https://www.facebook.com/ye.wintthudvb	Ye Wint Thu 	Botahtaung Township, Yangon Region	505-a		20	Aung Aung Oo https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100010591180136	Aung Aung Oo 	19 Ward, Dagon Myothit (South) Township, Yangon Region	505-a	
10	Hein A K https://www.facebook.com/arkarhein.mm	Arka Hein 	No. 969, Thuzita 1 Street, North Okkalapa Township, Yangon Region	505-a							
11	Paing Takhon https://www.facebook.com/melvin.moe.52	Paing Takhon(a) Sis Ko Paing 	Yangon Region	505-a							

Action will be taken against those who will admit the offenders, and list of remaining offenders will be released. —MNA

8 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 7 April, total figure rises to 142,549

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **142,549** after **8 new cases** were reported on 7 April 2021 according to the Ministry of Health and Sports. Among these confirmed cases, **131,834** have been discharged from hospitals.—MNA

Mat weaving business earns extra family income in Tada-U

THINPHYU mat weaving business is earning extra family income in Tada-U township, according to the mat weavers from Tada-U.

Most of the Myanmar people are using Thinphyu mat as their home furniture. Most Myanmar houses have at least one Thinphyu mat, whether it is old or new. Also, these mats are made of split cane and are suitable for Myanmar warm weather.

The main raw material to weave the Thinphyu mat is ordered from Pantanaw town. The raw canes are initially put into the water to weave the Thinphyu mat. Before putting them, they need to keep under the sun.

"The Thinphyu mat is woven with the cane strips. The 100



The weavers earn K 2,500 for a piece of Thinphyu mat. Although it is fewer wages, the girls are earning extra income as it is a traditional business.

cane trees can weave two Thinphyu rugs. We have to split the

cane. Then, we have to weave the mat before the canes are dried.

The weavers earn K 2,500 for a piece of Thinphyu mat.

Although it is fewer wages, the girls are earning extra income as it is a traditional business.

After the harvest season, the girls in Tada-U townships are weaving the Thinphyu mat from April to September. Then, they are selling them back for K15,000 per mat, said a mat weaver from Ngar Yar Pyar village, Tada-U township.

There are many sizes of Thinphyu mat. But the seven feet is the biggest one for the Thinphyu mat. Also, the mat used for meditation is sold for K3,000. Therefore, the girls in Tada-U township earn extra family income by weaving for Thinphyu mat, said Ma Naing Naing Maw, a Thinphyu mat weaver.—Ye Tint (Tada-U-IPRD)/GNLM

US dollar gains up to K1,500 in April first week

ACCORDING to the Central Bank of Myanmar's data, the US dollar value against Kyat appreciates in the domestic forex market, reaching up to K1,500.

The dollar exchange rate stood at K1,469 on 31 March and strengthened to K1,495 on 6 April. The exchange rate rose by K20 in a week. Nevertheless, the local forex market rate is K70 higher than the rate set by the CBM. The CBM set a dollar exchange rate at K1,495 on 6 April. In contrast, it stood at K1,570 in the local forex market, a money changer reported.

A dollar was valued at only

K1,330 in January-end. The dollar exchange rate jumped to K1,441 in February, with an increase of K100 against January's rate. The local forex market's data showed that the dollar exchange rate touched the maximum of K1,345 and the minimum of K1,327 in January 2021. The rate moved in the range of K1,335-1,465 in February. It reached the lowest of K1,420 and the highest of K1,550 in March.

In 2020, the exchange rate moved in the range of K1,465-1,493 in January, K1,436-1,465 in February, K1,320-1,445 in March, K1,395-1,440 in April,

K1,406-1,426 in May, K1,385-1,412 in June, K1,367-1,410 in July, K1,335-1,390 in August, K1,310-1,355 in September, K1,282-1,315 in October, K1,303-1,330 in November and K1,324-1,403 in December.

In 2019, the rates are pegged at K1,508-1,517 in July, K1,510-1,526 in August, K1,527-1,565 in September, K1,528-1,537 in October, K1,510-1,524 in November and K1,485-1,513 in December.

On 20 September 2018, the dollar exchange rate hit an all-time high of K1,650 in the local currency market. — NN/GNLM

Farmers from Mongyang happy with golden pumpkin yield, prices this year

THE golden pumpkin has brought smiles to the farmers' faces in the Mongyang region, Shan State (East) as they are getting fair prices of their products in the local markets, with yielded abundantly this year, according to the pumpkin growers.

"This year, the golden pumpkins are yielded plentifully. The pumpkins are demanded highly by the traders and earning good price. Nearly every day, we picked up the golden pumpkin and sold them back.

After 120 days, the golden pumpkin can be started to pick up. One acre of golden pumpkin can produce around 2,000 pumpkins, said a local farmer.

The daily-wages labour is also earning K10,000 per day. Therefore, the daily wages labours are also happy with their income, said another pumpkin grower.

The Mongyang region is engaging with the agriculture business. The local farmers are growing onion, chilli, potato, tomato, eggplant and beans.

The farmers are growing them, especially in the monsoon season from May to June.

Then, they are constantly cultivating winter crops golden pumpkin from October to November. This year, the golden pumpkin are yielded richly and making reasonable profits.—Arr Char/GNLM

Butter bean prices slip on weak demand

WHEN the butter bean is flooding the market, the prices slid owing to weak demand. The butter bean prices moved in the range of K47,000-63,000 per bag depending on the size in the Mandalay market, with a slight decrease of K1,000-2,000 per bag.

About 40,000 bags of butter bean from Yesagyo Township is daily flowing into Pakokku market, said U Bo Gyi Naing, owner of Nilar depot in Pakokku Township. The villagers along Ayeyawady and Chindwin rivers in Yesagyo Township cultivate the butter beans on alluvium soils during low water level of the Ayeyawady River. The beans are highly yielded, U Phoe Kyaw, a grower from Yesagyo Township, elaborated.

A basket of butter bean is worth K14,000 this year, indicating K1,000 lower than last year's

rate, the growers said.

Additionally, the butter bean prices decline in the domestic market on the back of falling demand from the foreign markets, according to the Mandalay pulses and beans market.

In 2019, the beans touched a high of K37,000 per basket. In April 2020, butter bean fetched about K17,000 per basket. This year, it plunged to K14,000 per basket. The price is possible to extend the drop as the foreign demand is feeble amid the COVID-19 pandemic and the political changes, the traders said.

Butter bean export to China, Japan and European markets has been falling. Now, it is relying only on the domestic market, said a trader from the Mandalay market. Typically, Myanmar exports about 75 per cent of butter bean production

to foreign markets -- Japan, China, Denmark, Singapore, the Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Taiwan (China Taipei) and Viet Nam, with an export volume of 15,000-30,000 tonnes per year.

There are over 160,000 acres of butter bean plantation both in winter and monsoon crop seasons. The butter beans are grown in June and July for the monsoon growing season and harvested in October and November. The winter season is in October/November, and harvest time from January to March. The butter beans are primarily cultivated in Sagaing, Bago, Magway, Mandalay and Ayeyawady regions and Mon and northern Shan states. Magway Region produces good-quality butter beans, and Japanese buyers prefer them. — KH/GNLM



This year, the golden pumpkin are yielded richly and making reasonable profits.

11th ASEAN Tourism Resourcing, Monitoring and Evaluation Committee Meeting held online

THAILAND hosted the 11th ASEAN Tourism Resourcing, Monitoring and Evaluation Committee Meeting (ATRMEC) via videoconferencing yesterday.

The meeting was attended by ASEAN Tourism Authority Heads, the delegations from ASEAN countries and ASEAN Secretary-General Office, Director-General for the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism and Leader of Myanmar Tourism Authority U Maung Maung Kyaw and other officials.

During the meeting, Director-General U Maung Maung Kyaw presented the completed operations under the supervision of the committee, the importance of statistics in drafting policies for monitoring in ASEAN tourism integration and future tourism plans,



The 11th ASEAN Tourism Resourcing, Monitoring and Evaluation Committee Meeting (ATRMEC) in progress online yesterday.

recommendations to prepare tourism statistics framework in 2021 based on the reviews of ASEAN Tourism Strategic Plan 2016-2025 and 2-year work plans based on ASEAN Tourism Strategic Plan 2016-2025.

The meeting also discussed the draft version of monitoring and indexes of implementation processes of ASEAN Tourism Strategic Plan 2016-2025, the budget status of ASEAN tourism authority in 2021, budget proposals for ASEAN tourism projects to be implemented in 2021, COVID-19 relief plans and cooperation works with relevant organizations for the development of ASEAN tourism sector.—MNA

Food aids provided to police, firefighters, staff

THE basic four types of food aids (rice, cooking oil, salt and lentil) and COVID-19 protective gears are provided to the military personnel, War Veterans Organization members, military veterans and Fire Brigade members, who sacrificed their lives for the country and Tatmadaw, while the medicines, food aids and cash prizes to Myanmar Police Force, Fire Brigade members and security staff at the respective military commands, military veteran office, staff housing and police stations.

East Central Commander Brig-Gen Naing Naing Oo and party provided four types of



Departmental staff are receiving foodstuffs in Thantlang Township of Chin State.

food aids to Myanmar Police Force and Fire Brigade members in Homain Township of Shan State (South) on 6 April, and the North-West Command officials provided to depart-

mental staff, town elders, religious leaders, wards and village-tract administrators of Thantlang Township of Chin State.—MNA

Rioters arrested with handmade weapons used in riots in Kalay

A total of 18 rioters were arrested with handmade guns, grenades, mines, fire bottles and other related weapons used in riots yesterday in Kalay.

The attackers were reportedly the group leaders of 100 rioters. They attacked the security forces while removing roadblocks on Kyansittha road in Taungzalat ward and Bogyoke road in Tahan ward, Kalay Township, Sagaing Region at about 8 am.

During the attack, the security forces maintained the situation according to riot-control procedures, and the crowd was dispersed at around 1:30 pm.

It is reported that some of the members of the security forces were seriously injured due to the attack and have been under medical treatments at the military station hospital.

Those arrested will be taken effective legal actions, and investigations are underway to capture the rest of the perpetrators as soon as possible.—MNA

Shooter to US Centre arrested

OFFICIALS inspected seven bullets hit on the glass of the entrance security booth of US Centre on Inya Road in Kamayut Township of Yangon Region. The centre was fired seven shots at 7 am on 27 March.

Thanks to the efforts of officials, Aye Thaw Kaung, son of U Tint Lwin, 34, holding citizenship scrutiny card No 12/Ka-Ma-Ra (C) 054565, who fired the US Centre by gun, was arrested at the residence of 74-D, Thanlwin Road, Bahan Township together with Mercedes YGN/3P-5569 at about 9 am on 30 March.

According to his confession, he bought a black pistol that can be fired with a gas cylinder and 150 lead balls worth

K190,000 on 25 February online. He also purchased a fake number plate YGN/5P-7463 worth K40,000 from the shop selling phoney number plates on West Shwegondine Road the same day. On 26 March, he changed the number plate YGN/3P-5569 of his father's Mercedes with a fake one. He drove the car three-four times on Inya Road near the US Centre to monitor the environs. On 27 March, he left the house and opened fire at the US Centre with a gas gun seven times.

He dropped a large office bag comprising the gas gun, a box of 100 lead balls, two CO2 gas cylinders and a fake car number plate packed by a blue polyeth-



Aye Thaw Kaung, shooter to US Centre, is arrested with a Mercedes car being seized.



ene bag into Ngamoeyeik Creek from the Ngamoeyeik Bridge.

Aye Thaw Kaung is an NLD supporter. He participated in riotous protests in front of the Yangon Region government of

rice in Yangon, Myaynigon junction, near Hledan overpass, in front of the Korean Embassy and US Embassy 16 times in February and March. He fired the US Centre by gas gun for

causing political confusion.

Severe action will be taken against Aye Thaw Kaung for his acts of deteriorating State peace and stability and the rule of law under the law. — MNA

Chile president enacts election postponement



Chilean President Sebastian Pinera, pictured in March 2021, received the backing of parliament after proposing a delay in the vote to choose who will rewrite the country's constitution. **PHOTO:AFP**

CHILE'S President Sebastian Pinera enacted a law Tuesday to postpone by five weeks an election to choose a commission to rewrite the country's dictatorship-era constitution, amid a surge in coronavirus infections.

The vote was to have taken place on Sunday, but Pinera proposed that it be delayed, and received the backing of

parliament.

"We did not think it prudent or convenient to hold elections this coming weekend," Pinera said as he signed the bill in Santiago.

The election to decide the members of a Constituent Assembly who will rewrite the constitution -- which has been in effect since the Augusto Pinochet dictatorship (1973-

90) -- will now take place on May 15 or 16.

Campaigning would be suspended until April 28.

Pinera said the reasons for the postponement were "taking care of the health of our compatriots and secondly, taking care of the health of our democracy".

Chile has notched record new daily infec-

tions recently, regularly topping 8,000 -- a much higher number than during the first wave of the pandemic and despite a fast advancing vaccination campaign.

Chile's intensive care units are running at 95 per cent occupancy.

Last October, Chileans voted overwhelmingly in favour of rewriting the constitution. —AFP ■

New Zealand boosts space technology cooperation with Germany

NEW Zealand's aerospace industry is getting a boost through cooperation with the German Aerospace Centre (DLR), which is expected to improve its capability and potentially lead to joint space missions, New Zealand's Minister of Research, Science and Innovation Megan Woods said Wednesday.

According to her, 12 New Zealand organizations have been chosen to work with world-leading experts at DLR to complete feasibility studies for cooperation on propulsion, space communications and remote sensing technologies.

DLR is Germany's national research centre that conducts research and development activities in the fields of aeronautics, space, energy, transport, security and digitalization. Woods said the feasibility

studies will lead to larger scale collaborations, potentially including joint New Zealand-Germany space missions.

"Our Government has helped accelerate growth including through an enabling regulatory regime for space, the Airspace Integration Trials Programme and investing in the MethaneSAT climate change space mission," the min-

ister said.

Approximately 900,000 New Zealand dollars in funding has been allocated to the 12 space technology projects from the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment's 28 million New Zealand dollars in Catalyst Fund, which is aimed at growing partnerships with international research organizations. —Xinhua ■



New Zealand's aerospace industry is getting a boost through cooperation with the German Aerospace Center (DLR), which is expected to improve its capability and potentially lead to joint space missions, New Zealand's Minister of Research, Science and Innovation Megan Woods said Wednesday. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Ukraine urges NATO to speed up membership in 'signal' to Moscow

UKRAINIAN President Volodymyr Zelensky on Tuesday urged NATO to speed up his country's membership into the alliance, saying it was the only way to end fighting with pro-Russia separatists.

Zelensky spoke with NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg after an increase in clashes and Russian military movements on the border raised fears of an escalation of the separatist conflict in eastern Ukraine. In a tweet after the call, Zelensky said it was time for NATO to move forward with Ukraine's longstanding desire for membership. He said Kiev was committed to defence reforms requested by the alliance in exchange for membership. "But reforms alone will not stop Russia," said Zelensky, whose government has said it hopes to be invited this year to



Ukraine says it is worried about a Russian military build-up along its frontier. **PHOTO: AFP**

join a NATO Membership Action Plan (MAP).

"NATO is the only way to end the war in Donbas. Ukraine's MAP will be a real signal for Russia." Fears have been mounting of a major escalation of the conflict in eastern Ukraine, where government forces have battled separatists in the mainly Russian-speaking Donbas region since 2014.

Ukraine last week accused Russia of massing thousands of military personnel on its northern and eastern borders as well as on the Crimean peninsula annexed by Moscow.

The United States, the central power in NATO, stopped short of saying that Ukraine's membership had become more urgent and said Kiev must first complete reforms. —AFP ■

Talks to save Iran nuclear deal get off to good start

IRAN, Russia and the United States reacted positively Tuesday to the opening exchanges in a first day of talks in Vienna aimed at rescuing an international agreement on Tehran's nuclear programme.

US President Joe Biden has said he is ready to reverse the decision of his predecessor Donald Trump to withdraw from the landmark 2015 agreement, negotiated to ensure that Iran never developed a military nuclear programme.

And after Moscow gave a positive assessment of the opening of the talks earlier Tuesday Washington's reaction a little later was also upbeat. Iran too, described the opening talks as constructive.

"I can say that overall, the meeting was constructive," the head of the Iranian delegation, Abbas Araghchi, said in a video on Iranian broadcaster Irinn.

The United States was not present at those discussions because Iran has refused to meet the US delegation so long as its sanctions against Tehran remain in place.

The European Union is acting as an intermediary. Mikhail Ulyanov, Russia's Vienna-based envoy to international organizations, said Tuesday's meeting between those parties still in the deal — Iran, China, Britain, France, Germany and Russia — had been "successful". It would take time to restore the agreement, he said.

"The most important thing after today's meeting of the Joint Commission is that practical work towards achieving this goal has started," he tweeted.

"We do see this as a constructive and certainly welcome step," US State Department spokesman Ned Price said of the talks a little later. —AFP ■

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V IAL 001 VOY. NO. (097N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V IAL 001 VOY. NO. (097N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **8-4-2021** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **HPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim's Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

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M/S INTER ASIA LINES

Mexican election candidate launches campaign from coffin

A Mexican congressional candidate launched his election campaign in a coffin Tuesday to highlight the country's many thousands of deaths from the coronavirus pandemic and cartel-related violence.

Carlos Mayorga, a lower house candidate for the Encuentro Solidario party in the northern state of Chihuahua, said he was sending a message to politicians that people were dying "because of their indifference."

Mayorga arrived inside a gold-colored casket at a campaign rally on a bridge between the Mexican border city of Ciudad Juarez and El Paso, Texas.

He was accompanied by aides dressed in personal protective equipment and carrying bouquets of flowers to draw attention to Mexico's Covid-19 death toll of more than 200,000



Mexican congressional candidate Carlos Mayorga launches his campaign from inside a coffin to send a message to politicians that people are dying 'because of their indifference'. **PHOTO: AFP**

-- one of the world's highest.

Politicians "have remained silent about the high levels of organized crime. They have re-

mained silent about the chaotic Covid situation," Mayorga said.

More than 300,000 people have been murdered in Mexico

since the government deployed the military in the war on drugs in 2006, according to official figures. —AFP ■

'Suddenly we heard people scream: Flood!' - Horror in Indonesia



The Indonesian island of Adonara has been devastated by floods and landslides. **PHOTO: AFP**

HOMELESS, injured, and with his daughter dead, Sugeng

stares blankly as he comes to grips with the devastation left

by floods and landslides on Indonesia's Adonara island.

The 60-year-old was asleep with his family on Sunday night as torrential rain battered the community at the eastern end of the vast archipelago nation.

In seconds, their lives changed forever.

"Suddenly we heard people scream 'flood!'" said Sugeng, who like many Indonesians goes by one name.

He and his wife fled their home, but their 20-year-old daughter Indri did not make it out alive and her body was later found on a beach.

"She was trying to hold on

to a cupboard but the current was so strong that she lost her grip," Sugeng said.

"We buried my daughter yesterday... I'm devastated."

Adonara island, home to about 125,000 people, was among the areas hardest hit by the floods and landslides that killed more than 150 in Indonesia and neighbouring East Timor. The disaster was triggered by heavy rain and wind from one of the region's most destructive cyclones in years, which ripped across a cluster of islands in the neighbouring Southeast Asian nations.—AFP ■

Brazil prostitutes strike for first-line Covid shots

PROSTITUTES in the city of Belo Horizonte in southeast Brazil have gone on strike for a week, demanding to be included in the group of front-line workers receiving priority coronavirus vaccines. Thousands of sex workers in the city have been forced by pandemic-related closure of hotels -- where they rented rooms to sell their services -- to solicit for clients on the street, they say.

"We are in the front line, moving the economy and we are at risk," Cida Vieira, president of

the Association of Prostitutes of Minas Gerais state, told AFP. "We need to get vaccinated."

Vieira and other women held a protest Monday in a street lined with shuttered hotels where they used to ply their trade, waving placards declaring: "Sex workers are professionals" and "Sex work and health." "We are part of the priority group because we deal with various types of people and our lives are at risk," said Lucimara Costa, one of the protesting prostitutes.—AFP ■



Sex workers protest at Rua Guaicurus, in Belo Horizonte, in Brazil's Minas Gerais state on April 5, 2021, asking to be considered a priority group to receive the vaccine against Covid-19. **PHOTO: AFP**

NEWS IN BRIEF

Descendants of Sudan Jews hope to connect with Israel

IN a corner of a shabby central Khartoum neighbourhood, Hebrew-lettered gravestones jut up from a rubble-strewn plot, remnants of the small but vibrant Jewish community that once lived in Sudan.

The cemetery stood for years as a reminder of an oft-overlooked chapter in Sudan's history, but for decades it has been neglected, abandoned among cracked streets littered with trash and lined by tyre shops.

"All we have from Sudan's Jewish community is this run-down cemetery, some old photos and memories," pharmacist Mansour Israil told AFP.

The grandson of an Iraqi Jew who settled in Sudan, Israil, whose family later converted to Islam, still lives in a neighbourhood once known as "the Jewish quarter" in Omdurman, the capital's twin city across the Nile river. —AFP ■

Ex-prostitute, 'Jesus' actor line up for Peru Congress race

EX-PROSTITUTE Angela Villon is one of several unconventional candidates vying for a seat in Peru's national congress in elections Sunday -- a reflection of the country's growing diversity.

These atypical candidates include a Jesus actor, a cosplaying anime fan, and a leftist politician hoping to become Peru's first transgender congresswoman.

They are among 2,572 candidates running for a seat in Peru's 130-seat unicameral legislature, and their chosen issues vary radically.

Prostitute-turned politician

"We whores also vote, and we decided to stop being used," said Villon, 56, who is taking a stand for oft-exploited and outcast sex workers.

If elected, she says she would push for prostitution to be legalized and for its practitioners to be afforded dignity.—AFP ■

ONE Championship: Moraes to take on Johnson for Flyweight title tonight

ADRIANO Moraes of Brazil will fight against Demetrius Johnson of the United States in the main card of Men's Flyweight World Championship under the ONE Championship title: ONE on TNT that will be held tonight at the Singapore Indoor Stadium, Singapore.

The ONE event will feature bouts of world-class fighters, and fights will start at 8:30 pm of Singapore standard time, according to the statement with the ONE Championship.

There will be a total of six Men's fights.

In the co-main event or



Photo: ONE Championship

Lightweight Mixed Martial Arts fight, Eddie Alvarez of the United States will take on Iuri Lopicus of Moldova.

In the Catchweight Muay Thai bout, Rodtang Jitmuangnon of Thailand will face Jacob Smith of the United Kingdom.

In the Welterweight Mixed Martial Arts fight, Tyler McGuire of the United States will fight with Raimond Magomedaliyev of Russia.

sia.

In the Heavyweight Kickboxing fight, Rade Opacic of Serbia will meet Patrick Schmid of Switzerland.

Mahdi Barghi of Iran will take on Oumar Kane of Senegal in the Heavyweight Mixed Martial Arts fight.

According to the ONE Championship, the ONE Championship fights will be broadcast live free on ONE Super Application and ONE Championship YouTube Channel. The first two fights will also be streamed live on the ONE Championship Facebook page, officials stated.—GNLM ■

Italy gives OK for fans at Euro 2020 matches in Rome



The Italian government has given the green light for fans to attend Euro 2020 matches scheduled for Rome's Stadio Olimpico, including the tournament's curtain raiser, the country's football federation said on Tuesday. **PHOTO: AFP**

THE Italian government has given the green light for fans to attend Euro 2020 matches scheduled for Rome's Stadio Olimpico, including the tournament's curtain raiser, the country's football federation said on Tuesday.

Rome is set to host the opening fixture for the delayed multi-host nation Euro, between Turkey and Italy in Group A on Friday June 11. The Italian capital was also picked to host Italy's other group matches against

Switzerland and Wales, as well as a quarter-final.

"The willingness of the Italian government is excellent news that is good for the whole country, not just for football," president of the federation (FIGC) Gabriele Gravina said in a statement.

Gravina added that Italian health minister Roberto Speranza had asked the technical and scientific committee which advises the government "to find the best way to enable the presence of fans" for the matches.

The European Championship will run until July 11 and is currently programmed to feature matches played in 11 other cities — London, Munich, Baku, Saint Petersburg, Budapest, Bucharest, Amsterdam, Bilbao, Glasgow, Dublin and Copenhagen. —AFP ■

Premier League set to be halted as ban on organised sport still in place

THE 2020-21 football season is facing the prospect of being halted for a second successive season as the government and the health authorities failed to lift the ban on organized sport.

All organized sport was halted by the authorities last month until at least April 11 following a surge in COVID-19 cases.

However, with the number of positive cases reducing considerably in the last few weeks, there was hope that athletes who practise sport at elite level in Malta will be given the green light to resume their preparations ahead of gradual return of competitions.

However, speaking during a press conference in Castille, Prime Minister said that for the time being restrictions on organized sport remained in

place and may be will be lifted after April 26 should the situation continues to improve.

"It's important that everyone remain responsible and do not break the current restrictions so that on April 26 we can look forward to reopen the restaurants, bars and the return of organised sport as well as other activities," Dr Abela said.

"Everything will depend on how as a country we manage the lifting of restrictions."

The decision is particularly a huge blow for the Malta Football Association who is facing the prospect of ending the Premier League earlier than expected for a second successive season.

It is to be noted that Malta is the only country that has elite sport halted due to COVID-19. —AFP ■

Kevin De Bruyne signs contract extension at Man. City

KEVIN De Bruyne has signed a two-year contract extension that will keep him at Manchester City until 2025, the Premier League club announced on Wednesday.

The Belgium international, whose existing deal was due to expire in 2023, is 30 in June and now looks set to see out most of the remainder of his career at the Etihad Stadium.

De Bruyne has had a glittering spell since joining the club from Wolfsburg in 2015, winning seven major trophies, which could rise to 11 by the end of the season if City are successful in their hunt for the quadruple.

"I could not be happier," said De Bruyne. "Since joining City in 2015, I have felt at home. I love the fans, my family are settled here in

Manchester and my own game has developed really well.

"This football club is geared for success. It offers me everything I need to maximize my performance, so signing this contract was a straightforward decision.

"I am playing the best football of my career and I honestly feel there is more to come."

He said he and manager Pep Guardiola had the same football philosophy.

"Having that relationship with a manager is so important to me because our objectives are totally aligned, and we want the same things," he said.

City director of football Txiki Begiristain hailed De Bruyne as one of the best players in world football. —AFP ■



Kevin De Bruyne has signed a two-year contract extension that will keep him at Manchester City until 2025, the Premier League club announced on Wednesday. **PHOTO: AFP**